



# **RED LATINOAMERICANA DE BOTANICA RLB**

**2004 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement**

**Latin American Plant Sciences Network (LAPSN)**

## **2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**Summary Table**  
Summary of annual activities supported by the RLB since 1990

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	TOTAL
<b>SCHOLARSHIPS (N)</b>																			
Doctoral	5	7	6	8	7	3	2	1	0	0	0	3	5	5	4	2	2	0	60
Masters	12	19	19	19	22	17	6	1	2	4	4	4	2	5	4	3	5	0	148
Short-term	8	12	10	11	8	7	7	6	0	4	5	5	10	5	2	6	3	3	113
Short-term in USA	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>324</b>
<b>RESEARCH</b>																			
Bi-national	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Data bases	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Thesis for scholarship holders	6	5	8	6	7	4	4	0	0	2	2	2	3	0	3	1	1	1	54
Short-term research	7	12	10	10	8	7	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	67
Grants-in-aid	0	0	0	2	3	3	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE IN CENTRES</b>	6	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
<b>GRADUATE COURSES</b>																			
Total/main support	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	0	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	2	2	26
Partial support	4	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	2	4	4	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>SCIENTIFIC EVENTS</b>																			
Total/main support	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	12
Partial support	11	10	1	6	7	4	4	6	4	0	0	1	1	0	2	7	4	4	72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS *</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
<b>ACTIVITIES/YEAR</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>642</b>

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Red Latinoamericana de Botánica- RLB (Latin American Plant Sciences Network) is a consortium of Graduate Training Centers consisting of a selected number of academically prestigious Latin American institutions located in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, , and Venezuela. In these countries, internationally recognized scientists collaborate to provide graduate-level training (Masters to Doctoral level) in a variety of areas of the plant sciences to students from Latin American. These Centers are also the foci for the organization of graduate courses and scientific meetings.

The specific aims of the RLB are to contribute:

- ***To increase the number of trained plant scientists in a region harboring one-third of the world's plant species.***
- ***To promote the development of new centers of botanical excellence throughout the region.***
- ***To reduce the critical isolation among scientists in Latin America, that has long limited the development of a regional voice to address the problems of conservation and resource management.***
- ***To promote a sense of scientific community, self-sufficiency and strong international relations among the countries of Latin America.***

The economically modest but cost-effective work of the RLB is a worthwhile investment in a region in which knowledge and its policy application will be increasingly important elements in the face of the current pressures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and where national investment in science and technology must be stimulated.

This report describes the activities of the RLB for the period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 (hereafter referred to as "2007").

## II. RLB STRUCTURE

The RLB is governed by an **Executive Committee**, presently constituted by the President, assisted by the Executive Secretary, the past-president, the Regional Coordinator for Mexico, the Regional Coordinator for Central America and the Caribbean, the Regional Coordinator for South American Andean Countries, the Regional Coordinator for South American Southern Cone, and two of the Institutional Representatives. Furthermore, the RLB operates with a **Scientific Committee**, composed of the members of the Executive Committee (except the Executive Secretary plus the Institutional Representatives of some of the collaborative Latin American training RLB centers. The RLB has also an **External Advisory Committee**, formed by the Past Presidents, six internationally outstanding scientists who have in the past involved in different ways with the work of the RLB, and two *ex-officio* members: the President of the Latin American Society of Botany (ALB), and the President of Latin American Academy of Sciences (ACAL). In 2007 the RLB Board was composed by:

## **RLB Board 2007**

### **Executive Committee**

Javier SIMONETTI, President  
Chile

Victoria SOSA, Mexico

Sonia LAGOS-WITTE, Costa Rica

Lohengrin CAVIERES, Chile

Gloria MONTENEGRO, Past President

Paulina CHACON, Executive Secretary  
Chile

### **Scientific Committee**

Helga OCHOTERENA  
Instituto de Biología-UNAM, Mexico

Neftalí OCHOA  
CINVESTAV-Irapuato, Mexico

Victoria SOSA  
Instituto de Ecología A.C., Mexico

Juan NÚÑEZ  
Instituto de Ecología-UNAM, Mexico

Sonia LAGOS-WITTE  
Universidad de Costa Rica

Lina SARMIENTO  
ICAE – ULA, Venezuela

Paulo T. Sano  
Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brazil

Lilian ZAIDAN  
Instituto de Botanica, São Paulo, Brazil

Ariane L. PEIXOTO  
Escola Nacional de Botanica Tropical,  
JBRJ, RJ, Brazil

Gloria MONTENEGRO  
P. Universidad Católica de Chile

Felipe HINOJOSA  
Universidad de Chile

Lohengrin CAVIERES  
Universidad de Concepción

Ana ANTON  
Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina

José PARUELO  
Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ana Cristina TELLERIA  
Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

### **External Advisory Committee**

Mary KALIN, Past President, Chile\*\*  
Luis CORCUERA, Past President, Chile  
Sonia DIETRICH, Past President, Brazil  
José SARUKHÁN, Past President, Mexico  
Osvaldo SALA, Past President, Argentina  
Peter RAVEN, USA  
Gabriel MACAYA, Costa Rica  
Sir Ghilleen PRANCE, UK  
Daniel PIÑERO, Mexico  
Arturo GÓMEZ-POMPA, Mexico/USA  
Francisco SQUEO, President ALB, *ex officio*  
President ACAL, *ex officio*

### **Staff**

Paulina CHACON, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee and the Scientific Committee meet once a year in a Latin American country to discuss policy and budgetary matters, to program major activities, and to review applications for financial support. Due to the nature of its functions, it is not required for the External Advisory Committee to meet since members are contacted either by telephone or by e-mail, helping us save money and time.

The RLB's collaborating institutions are listed below indicating the specific areas of competence of each one.

COUNTRIES	INSTITUTIONS	AREAS OF EXPERTISE
MEXICO	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico D.F. Colegio de Posgraduados, Montecillo Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Irapuato Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Xalapa. Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán, A.C.	Tropical Plant Ecology Plant/Animal Interactions Genetics of Plant Populations Plant Physiology Ethnobotany Plant Systematics Conservation Biology
COSTA RICA	Universidad de Costa Rica, San José	Molecular Biology Biochemical and Molecular Characterization of Plant Genomes Plant Biology
VENEZUELA	Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas (IVIC), Caracas Instituto de Ciencias Ambientales y Ecológicas (ICAE, ex CIELAT), Universidad de Los Andes, Mérida Universidad Central, Caracas	Tropical Plant Ecology Ecophysiology Dynamic of Ecosystems Tropical Agroecosystems
BRAZIL	Instituto de Botânica, São Paulo Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo Universidade de Campinas, Campinas Universidade Federal de Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre Universidad Federal de Viçosa, Minas Gerais Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife Universidade Federal de Brasília, Brasília. Escola Nacional de Botânica Tropical, JBRJ, Rio de Janeiro	Plant Physiology Biochemistry Plant Systematics Tropical Rainforest Phytosociology Coastal Plant Resources Plant Anatomy Palinology Conservation
CHILE	Universidad de Chile, Santiago Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago Universidad de Concepción, Concepción Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia Universidad de La Serena, La Serena	Plant Ecology Plant Physiology Plant/Animal Interactions Plant Taxonomy Marine Ecology Phycology Biogeography Palinology Conservation and sustainable use
ARGENTINA	CIRN-INTA and CICV-INTA, Buenos Aires Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires Universidad de La Plata, La Plata Instituto de Botánica Darwinion, Buenos Aires Instituto de Botánica del Nordeste, Corrientes IMBIV, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Córdoba	Plant Systematics Plant Physiology Biochemistry Systematic of Genetic Resources Paleobotany Biogeography Ecology

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT

The funds invested so far have reached US\$ 4.1 million. Of these funds, 80% has been used to support the substantive actions of the RLB, the rest being utilized to support administrative costs of executive office. These resources have been available thanks to grants from a number of private foundations (Annex I) as well as from in-kind support from several of the institutions constituting the RLB, such as reduction of tuition fees for scholarship holders (Universidad de Chile, Universidad de Costa Rica, Instituto de Ecología A.C., Mexico, CINVESTAV–Irapuato, Mexico, ICAE - Universidad de Los Andes, Venezuela), lodging expenses for students and professors attending graduate courses, office space and communications infrastructure (Universidad de Chile), travel and expenses for representatives of the Institutions attending committee meetings, among other type of collaborations.

The financial resources provided to the RLB are administrated through the nonprofit Chilean organization “Corporación para el Desarrollo de las Ciencias Vegetales en América Latina”, created in 1991. The objective of the Corporation is to contribute to the development of plant sciences in Latin America. The Corporation does not pursue or propose any profit-oriented objectives. The Corporation’s board of directors consists of a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. No remuneration is received by any member of the Corporation for the accomplishment of his/her duties neither charges any fee to RLB for handling its resources.

During 2007, RLB administrative staff was comprised by an executive director (Susana Maldonado) that left RLB in November after 17 years of continued work and by an assistant (María José Hidalgo), that left RLB in July. Both were hired by the Corporation to serve these positions. Since January 1, 2008, Dra. Paulina Chacón assumed the Executive Secretary position. In addition, distinguished Latin American scientists serve all the other functions within RLB’s Executive and Scientific Committees without receiving any payment.

The RLB proposal submitted to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) from the Organization of American States (OAS) was approved in March, 2007. The request was about US\$ 300,000 for 4 years. The general purpose of the proposal was to carry out a number of courses, workshops and seminars in Chile, Dominican Republic, and Honduras to enhance capacity building for plant conservation and sustainable use, to improve education and public awareness on plant conservation and networking, among other objectives. During 2007, RLB carried out two activities of this project: (1) a **Coordination Meeting** and (2) the Graduate Course “**Actualización en Biología de la Conservación II**” held in Santiago, Chile, November, coordinated by Dr. Javier A. Simonetti.

A new donation (US\$ 30,000) from Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust was granted to RLB in this period, to support several activities carried out in different Latin American countries in 2008, including the Regional Course “**Botánica Económica y Usos de la Flora en Latinoamérica**” that will take place in La Paz, Bolivia and the Symposium “**Plant sciences for Latin American development: a celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Red Latinoamericana de Botánica**”.

Furthermore, RLB has continued seeking the support from other grant-making foundations and governmental financing agencies and national research councils, in order to increase funds for our programs.

## **IV. MEETING OF THE RLB SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL COORDINATION**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RLB Scientific Committee was held on May 10-11, 2007, in Santiago, Chile, just after to the Colloquium “**Challenges of Plant Sciences in Conservation and Management of Natural Resources**” (Annex II) The meeting was attended members of the Scientific Committee and two past presidents, Dr. Sonia Dietrich and Dr. Luis Corcuera, both members of the RLB External Advisory Committee. Gabriel Macaya, Universidad de Costa Rica; Rodolfo Sánchez, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Patricio Arce, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile; Cristina Tellería, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina; Helga Ochoterena, Instituto de Biología-UNAM, Mexico; Nanza de Menezes, Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brazil; Michele Ataroff, ICAE - Universidad de Los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela; and Augusto Franco, Universidade de Brasília, Brazil could not to assist. Dr. Gloria Montenegro, President of the RLB, chaired the meeting. Logistic and administrative aspects were managed by Susana Maldonado, Executive Director of the RLB.

A full report on the activities carried out by RLB in the June 2006 to April 2007 period was presented on the opening day, being approved by the Scientific Committee. During the meeting, progress of RLB programs was reviewed and the future of the RLB was discussed. Furthermore, the budget for the 2007 to 2008 period was discussed and established.

The election of a new president was also discussed, as the term of Dr. Gloria Montenegro, had been extended to May 2007. The name of Dr. Javier A. Simonetti, Regional Coordinator for Southern South American Cone, was unanimously approved for this position. Dr. Simonetti started immediately to serve as RLB President. During the Santiago meeting was also discussed a new RLB governing body structure, to be launched immediately after the meeting.

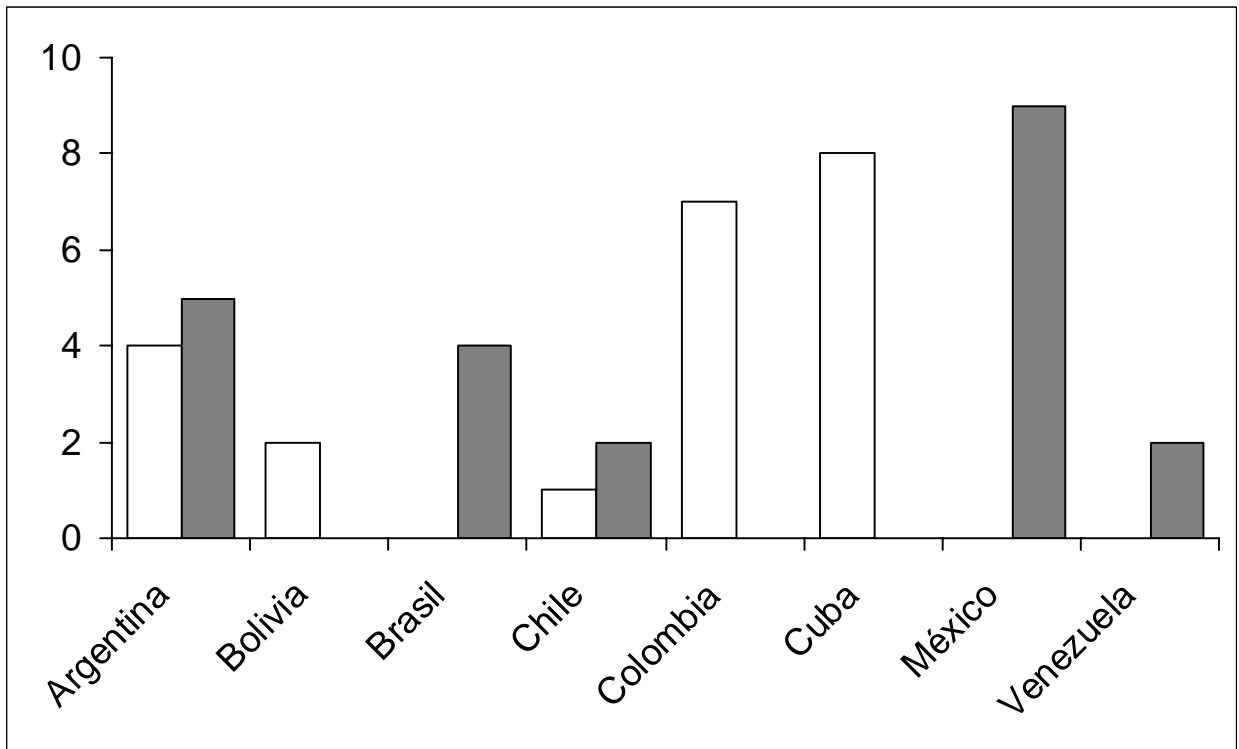
## **V. TRAINING**

### **A. The 2007 Scholarships Competition**

#### **a. Candidates**

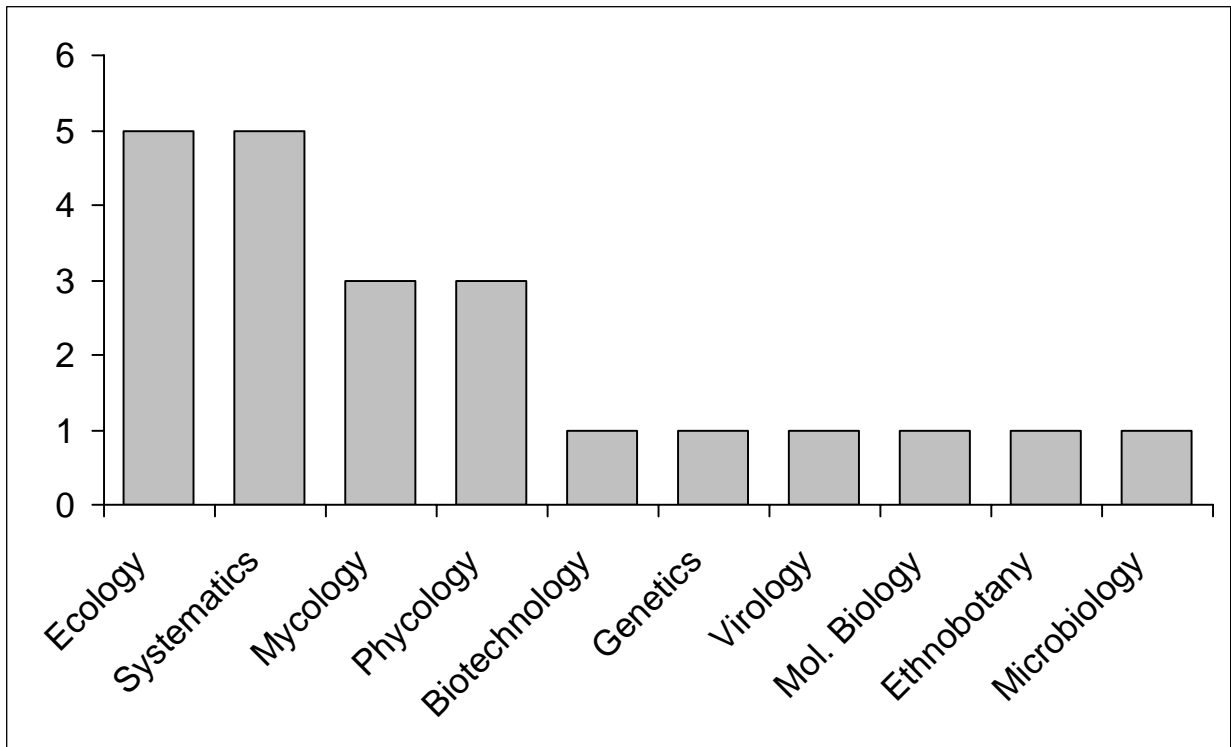
A new competition for Short-term scholarships was announced in for first time in October 2006. As usual, the competitions were electronically implemented. It was requested the fulfillment of an application form available in our Web site, which it had to be electronically sent to the RLB's office, as well as other documents.

This year, we received a total of 22 short-term scholarships applications. The order of preferences for RLB centers in this competition was Mexico (9), Argentina (5) and Brazil (4). The applications were coming mostly from Cuba and Colombia, with 8 and 7 applicants respectively, followed by Argentina, with 4 candidates (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Origin Country of applicants (white columns) and RLB Centre (grey columns) by applicant for short-term scholarships

Fields most demanded were Ecology and Systematic, with 5 applications each one. Mycology and Phycology were sought by 3 candidates. Biotechnology, Genetics, Virology, Molecular Biology, Ethnobotany and Microbiology received just one preference each one (Figure 2).



**Figure 2. Areas of the plant sciences sought by short-term scholarship applicants in January 2007**

#### **b. Selected RLB Short-term scholarship**

Scholarship applications were uploaded to the RLB Web site making them available exclusively to the members of the Scientific Committee, who evaluated them sending back their opinions to the Executive Office. Subsequently, the final results were determined in coordination meetings held in Santiago, Chile, in March 2007 (Table 1).

**Table 1. Details of the selected scholarship holders**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>RLB CENTER</b>	<b>FIELD OF INTEREST</b>	<b>TUTOR</b>	<b>TERM</b>
Fernando Alzate	Colombia	Instituto de Ecología-UNAM, México	Ecology	Helga Ochoterena	3 months
Daniel Larrea	Bolivia	IVIC	Ecology	Jafet Nassar	3 months
Paula Raffo	Argentina	P. Universidad Católica de Chile	Phycology	Bernabé Santelices	4 months

### c. Progress of the 2007 RLB short-term scholarships

Fernando Alzate, Paula Raffo and Daniel Larrea, former RLB fellow, finished their short-term training scholarships.

### d. Cost of Scholarships

The monthly stipends for all types of scholarships, approved by the Scientific Committee on March 2007 are (in US\$):

Holder	RLB Center	Monthly stipend
F. Alzate	Mexico	700
D. Larrea	Venezuela	700
P. Raffo	Chile	700

### B. Progress of the former RLB Scholarship Holders

The two 2006 doctoral scholarship holders (Fernando Nicolalde and Sandra Obando) are pursuing their thesis work (Table 2). Tabata Rosas and Elizabeth Osorio, two master's scholarship holders, finished their thesis and graduated (Table 3), while Margarita Ríos and Hamleth Valois have continued their curricular activities.

**Table 2**  
**Details of the former doctoral scholarship holders**

NAME	COUNTRY	CENTER	FIELD	TUTOR	PERIOD	STATUS
Nora Martijena *	Argentina	Mexico	Ecology	Stephen Bullock	1989-1990	Graduated 1993
Patricio Arce	Chile	Mexico	Biotechnology	Rafael Rivera	1990-1994	Graduated 1995
Juan Hernandez	Guatemala	Chile	Ecology	Juan Armesto	1990-1994	Graduated 1995
Juan Macchiavello	Chile	Brazil	Phycology	Eurico C. de Oliveira	1990-1994	Graduated 1994
Carlos Martínez	Peru	Brazil	Physiology	Moacyr Maestri	1990-1995	Graduated 1995
Gustavo Ballesteros*	Colombia	Mexico	Ethnobotany	Rogelio Aguirre	1991-1992	Graduated 1993
Luis Marulanda	Colombia	Venezuela	Ecology	Elvira Cuevas	1991-1995	Graduated 1997
Manuel Gidekel *	Argentina	Mexico	Biotechnology	Luis Herrera E.	1993-1994	Graduated 1996
Luis Pacheco	Bolivia	Chile	Ecology	Javier Simonetti	1993-1997	Graduated 1997
John Jairo Ramirez	Colombia	Brazil	Phycology	Carlos Bicudo	1993-1997	Graduated 1996
Claudia Hornung	Venezuela	Mexico	Systematics	Victoria Sosa	2001-2004	Graduated 2005
Fabiana Pezzani	Uruguay	Mexico	Ecology	Carlos Montaña	2001-2004	Graduated 2006
Adriana Ruiz	Colombia	Venezuela	Ecology	Pascual Soriano	2001-2004	Graduated 2006
Cristian Bulboa	Chile	Brazil	Phycology	Eurico C. de Oliveira	2002- 2006	Graduated 2006
Daniel Larrea	Bolivia	Venezuela	Ecology	Pascual Soriano	2002- 2006	Graduated 2007
Sandra Obando	Colombia	Brazil	Plant Biology	Sandra Guerreiro	2006-	Starting thesis
Fernando Nicolalde	Ecuador	Mexico	Systematics	Andrew Vovides	2006-	On thesis

**Table 3**  
**Details of the former Master's scholarship holders**

NAME	COUNTRY	CENTER	FIELD	TUTOR	PERIOD	THESIS
Constanza La Rotta	Colombia	Mexico	Ethnobotany	Robert Bye	1989-1991	Graduated 1993
Pedro Bustamante	Chile	Costa Rica	Mol. Biology	Pilar Ramírez	1989-1992	Graduated 1996
Alejandro Farji	Argentina	Venezuela	Ecology	Juan Silva	1989-1992	Graduated 1992
Alina Freire	Ecuador	Brazil	Taxonomy	Ana M. Giullietti	1989-1992	Graduated 1992
Herbert Lazo	Peru	Chile	Physiology	Miren Alberdi	1989-1992	Graduated 1992
José Rodríguez	Venezuela	Chile	Physiology	Liliana Cardemil	1989-1992	Graduated 1993
César Córdova	Peru	Chile	Taxonomy	Héctor Romo	1990-1992	Graduated 1993
Alexandra Chemás	Colombia	Mexico	Ecology	Víctor Rico-Grey	1990-1992	Graduated 1995
Marcelo Molinillo	Argentina	Venezuela	Ecology	M. Monasterio	1990-1992	Graduated 1992
Freddy Albuja	Peru	Costa Rica	Virology	Carmen Rivera	1990-1993	Exam failed
Ana Bolaños	Colombia	Brazil	Systematic	Vera Bononi	1990-1993	Graduated 1993
María E. Solarte	Colombia	Mexico	Physiology	Alfonso Larque	1990-1993	Graduated 1992
Franklin Córdoba*	Colombia	Mexico	Ecology	Patricia Moreno	1991	Graduated 1991
Hernán Cabrera	Colombia	Chile	Physiology	Luis Corcuera	1991-1993	Graduated 1994
Héctor Sánchez	Peru	Chile	Physiology	Liliana Cardemil	1991-1993	Non graduated
A. Aranguren	Venezuela	Mexico	Ecology	Julia Carabias	1991-1994	Graduated 1994
Gisela Paz	Colombia	Costa Rica	Mol. Biology	Gabriel Macaya	1991-1994	Graduated 1995
Montserrat Ríos	Ecuador	Mexico	Ethnobotany	Javier Caballero	1991-1994	Graduated 1994
Clara Aguilar**	Colombia	Brazil	Palynology	T. Melhem	1992-1994	Graduated 1995
Guillermo Delgado**	Peru	Brazil	<i>In vitro</i> culture	Walter Handro	1992-1994	Graduated 1995
Beatriz Madrigal	Colombia	Mexico	Ethnobotany	Rogelio Aguirre	1992-1994	Graduated 1994
Gonzalo Abio	Cuba	Brazil	Phycology	Eurico de Oliveira	1992-1995	Non graduated
María Ballesteros	Colombia	Venezuela	Ecology	G. Sarmiento	1992-1995	Graduated 1995
Néstor Mazzeo**	Uruguay	Chile	Taxonomy	C. Marticorena	1992-1995	Graduated 1996
Bienvenido Santana	Dominican R.	Venezuela	Ecology	Mario Fariñas	1992-1995	Graduated 1995
Félix Rojas*	Bolivia	Chile	Systematic	Oscar Mathei	1993	Graduated 1994
Luis Alvarez	Colombia	Argentina	Ecology	Alfredo Calzolari	1993-1995	Graduated 1997
José Casaretto*	Peru	Chile	Physiology	Luis Corcuera	1993-1995	Graduated 1996
Ricardo Indarte	Uruguay	Chile	Physiology	Luis Corchera	1993-1995	Non graduated
Oscar Romero*	Argentina	Chile	Systematic	Patricio Rivera	1993-1995	Graduated 1995
Ernesto Gianoli	Peru	Chile	Ecology	Niemayer/Armesto	1993-1996	Graduated 1996
Luis Hurtado	Ecuador	Costa Rica	Ecology	Ricardo Soto	1993-1996	Graduated 1996
Luz Sánchez*	Colombia	Venezuela	Ecology	Michele Ataroff	1994-1995	Graduated 1996
Eugenia Roselló	Chile	Brazil	Palynology	Terezinha Melhem	1994-1996	Graduated 1996
Néstor Mariano**	Argentina	Mexico	Ecology	Rodolfo Dirzo	1994-1997	Graduated 2001
Cristina Perea	Argentina	Venezuela	Ecology	Gmo. Sarmiento	1994-1997	Graduated 1997
Alejandra Roldán	Argentina	Chile	Ecology	Javier Simonetti	1994-1997	Graduated 1997
Luis Terceros	Bolivia	Venezuela	Ecology	Michelle Ataroff	1994-1997	Graduated 1997
Angel Yáñez	Ecuador	Venezuela	Ecology	Mario Fariñas	1994-1997	Graduated 1997
Liliana Rosero*	Colombia	Brazil	Ecology	Paulo de Oliveira	1995	Graduated 1997
Verónica Romero	Uruguay	Argentina	Biotechnology	Esteban Hopp	1998-2001	Graduated 2002
Norlan Tercero	Nicaragua	Argentina	Ecology	Thomas Kitzberger	1998-2001	Graduated 2001
Cristian Bulboa	Chile	Brazil	Phycology	Edison de Paula	1999-2001	Graduated 2001
Fabiana Pezzani	Uruguay	Mexico	Ecology	Carlos Montaña	1999-2002	Graduated 2002
Daniel Larrea	Bolivia	Chile	Ecology	Javier Simonetti	2001-2003	Graduated 2003
Corina Hayano	Peru	Mexico	Biotechnology	June Simpson	2001-2004	Graduated 2004

**Table 3 (continued)**

Fernando Nicolalde	Ecuador	Mexico	Systematics	Andrew Vovides	2003 - 2005	Graduated 2005
Carlos Ibarra*	Peru	Mexico	Ecology	V. Sánchez-Cordero	2003 (1 year)	Graduated 2006
Paula Meli*	Argentina	Mexico	Ecology	Rodolfo Dirzo	2003 (6 months)	Graduated 2004
Sandra Obando	Colombia	Brazil	Plant Biology	Sandra Guerreiro	2004-2006	Graduated 2006
Tábata Rosas	Peru	Mexico	Biotechnology	Rafael Rivera	2004-2006	Graduated 2007
Elizabeth Osorio	Panama	México	Ecology	J. Luis Andrade	2006-2007	Graduated 2007

\*Partial support; \*\*Master's scholarship holders in doctoral programs

### C. Cost of Training – 2007

The cost of scholarships program this year was US\$ 43,298 representing 33.3% of total funds (Table 4).

## VI. RESEARCH GRANTS

### A. Thesis grants to RLB scholarship holders

Just one thesis project was approved for funding by the RLB in 2007:

#### 1. RLB07-SP-1: Fernando Nicolalde

**Title of thesis project:** Sistemática y evolución de los complejos *Zarnia loddigesii* Miq. y *Z. paucijuga* Wieland”  
**Tutor:** Dr. Andrew Peter Vovides, Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Xalapa, Mexico  
**Date approved:** January 24, 2007  
**Amount:** US\$ 2,500  
**Final reports:** Financial report approved in March, 2007

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### B. Thesis grants to non RLB scholarship holders

#### 1. RLB07-AT01: Eduardo Ruiz

**Title of thesis project:** “Delimitación de especies y posición filogenética del género americano *Otatea* (Poaceae: Bambusoideae)”  
**Tutor:** Dra. Victoria Sosa, Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Xalapa, Mexico  
**Date approved:** January 24, 2007  
**Amount:** US\$ 1,676  
**Final reports:** Financial report approved in March, 2007

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#### 2. RLB07-AT02: Carlos Zamorano

**Title of thesis project:** “Estado de Conservación de bosques de *Araucaria araucana* y formas de apropiación en la Cordillera de la Costa de Chile”  
**Tutor:** Dr. Mario González, Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Chile  
**Date approved:** January 24, 2007  
**Amount:** US\$ 1,884  
**Final reports:** Financial report approved in March, 2007

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### C. Cost of Research - 2007

The cost of all research activities supported in 2007 was US\$ 6,060, representing 4.7% of total funds (Table 4).

## VII. GRADUATE COURSES (Annex III)

### A. Courses with main support of the RLB

#### RLB07-CP03:

#### Short Course “Plant Nomenclature and Botanical Latin”

**Venue:** Orchid Room, National Botanical Garden of Santo Domingo (Jardín Botánico Nacional de Santo Domingo), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

**Date:** March, 19 - 23, 2007.

**Lecturers:** **Duane Kolterman**, Ph.D, Senior Member and Professor, Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and MSc, **Ricardo García**, Taxonomist, National Herbarium JBSD, P. O. 21-9, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

**Coordinator:** **Duane Kolterman**, Ph.D, Senior Member and Professor, Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

**Local coordinator and financial responsibility:** Daisy Castillo Vásquez, Director, Department of Botany, National Botanical Garden, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

**General Objective:** Provide students with knowledge on the fundamentals of Nomenclature and Botanical Latin among which we can cite professors, students and technical personnel from the university and herbarium of the Island of Hispaniola.

This course on Botanical and Latin Nomenclature was attended by 28 participants, including professors and pre and post graduate students.

**Funding:** Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust granted US\$ 2,938 to RLB to organize this course. This grant corresponds to an overage from the same course realized in June 2006 as it was reported in the last Annual Report.

#### Proyecto SEDI/AICD/ME/012/06:

#### Graduate Course “Actualización en Biología de la Conservación II”

**Venue:** Reserva Nacional Río Clarillo, Santiago, Chile.

**Date:** November 19 - 28, 2007.

**Coordinator:** **Dr. Javier A. Simonetti** (Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile).

**Invited Lecturers:** Dr. **Lohengrin A. Cavieres** (Universidad de Concepción), Msc. **Audrey A. Grez** (Universidad de Chile), Dra. **Mónica Moraes** (Universidad Mayor de San Andrés) y Dr(c) **Carlos E. Valdivia** (Universidad de Chile).

**Funding:** The RLB was granted with US\$36,200 from the Organization of American States (OAS). Universidad de Chile and Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF) contributed with a partial support of US\$ 1,500 each one. These funds were allocated to travel and living

expenses for foreign students and teachers, and other course necessities.

This was an upgrading course, aimed toward promising young students from countries who are not RLB-centers (nationals from RLB-center countries were not eligible -Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, México and Venezuela), focusing on Central America, largely undergrads completing their honor's thesis. Students from this area comprised 31% of applicants but 52.7% of accepted students. This was an intensive course, with lectures, fieldwork, and seminars covering the rationale and needs for conserving biological diversity, its nature and magnitude world-wide and well as the Latin-American flora and fauna, global and regional threats from climate change to forest fragmentation, uses of biodiversity in Latin America, extinctions, biogeography, and protected areas. Students were required to carry out an original research project on a biological aspect of the biodiversity conservation.

Two hundred and sixty four applications from 20 different countries were received, including 16 applicants from Argentina, 6 from Bolivia, 11, from Brazil, 29 from Chile, 52 from Colombia, 5 from Costa Rica, 8 from Cuba, 21 from Ecuador, 5 from El Salvador, 16 from Guatemala, 3 from Haiti, 21 from Honduras, 13 from México, 12 from Nicaragua, 4 from Panama, 21 from Peru, 1 from Puerto Rico, 7 from Dominican Republic, 6 from Uruguay, and 7 from Venezuela. Nineteen students from 12 countries were selected to be totally supported by the RLB. It is outstanding that applications from Haiti were received for first time.

Narrative report in [http://www.rlb-botanica.org/cursos\\_eventos.html](http://www.rlb-botanica.org/cursos_eventos.html)

Central American Students		Other students	
El Salvador	Begonia Vieytes	Chile	Tomás Altamirano, Víctor Ardiles, Paula Henríquez, Andrés Madrid, Viviana Maturana
Guatemala	Michelle Szejner	Colombia	Jairo Plazas
		Ecuador	María José Endara
		Peru	Sandra Arroyo
Haiti	Etienne Herard	Uruguay	Carlina Torranza
Honduras	Francisco Aceituno, Cindy Midence, Héctor Pineda, Sandy Pereira		
Nicaragua	Leonardo Martínez		
Dominican Republic	Arelen Marmolejo, Luis Reynoso		

## B. Courses with partial support of the RLB in 2007

**B.1.** The RLB offered small partial supports adding up to US\$1,500 each one on a competitive basis for graduate courses organized by Latin American universities on conservation and sustainable use of plant resources. Three applications were received being selected to receive RLB support all of them. However, the course **“El Bosque Atlántico: una aproximación funcional y experimental a su biología y ecología”** was delayed until June 2008.

**RLB07-CP04:**

**Regional Training Course “Advanced phytoplankton course of harmful marine microalgae”**

**Venue:** Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP) and Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Pesqueras (INIDEP), Argentina.

**Date:** November 19-30, 2007

**Local Coordinator and lecturer:** **Martha Ferrario** (UNLP) and **José Carreto** (INIDEP)

**Invited Lecturers:** Nora Montoya, Marli Bergesch, José Carreto, Martha Ferrario, Santiago Fraga, Jacob Larsen, Mariângela Menezes, Silvia Sala, Célia Sant’Anna, and Celia Villac.

**Objective:** to introduce on toxicology and mechanisms of action of **harmful marine microalgae**.

**Number of participants:** The course was attended by 30 students from Argentina, Uruguay and Ecuador.

**Funds approved by RLB:** US\$ 1,500.00 for partial support to Latin American students.

**RLB07-CP05:**

**International Course and Workshop “Métodos en Paleoecología Cuaternaria”**

**Venue:** Universidad de La Serena, La Serena, Chile

**Date:** October 5-8, 2007

**Local Coordinator and lecturers:** Dr. **Antonio Maldonado** (CEAZA, Universidad de La Serena) and Dr. **Claudio Latorre**, (CASEB-Dpto. Ecología, P. Universidad Católica de Chile and IEB)

**Invited Lecturers:** **Julio Betancourt**, USGS-Desert Laboratory, USA; **Alan Cooper**, Australian Center for Ancient DNA, University of Adelaide, Australia; **Patricio Moreno**, IEB, Universidad de Chile, Chile; **Christopher Moy**, School of Earth Sciences, Stanford University, USA; **Ricardo Villalba**, Dpto Dendrocronología e Historia Ambiental, IAN GLA, Argentina; **Cathy Whitlock**, Depts. Earth Sciences, Montana State University, USA.

**Objectives:** To deal with five major topics of Paleoecology: (1) on high resolution pollen record, (2) on methods, analyses and case studies in arid lands paleoecology (3) on dendro-chronology and dendro-ecology, (4) on new methods of radiocarbon and stable isotope analyses, and (5) on the extraction and analyses of fossil DNA.

**Number of participants:** The course was attended by 25 students from 6 different Latino American countries.

**Funds approved by RLB:** US\$ 1,500.00 for partial support to Latin American students.

**B.2.** A new donation from Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust was granted to RLB in this period, to support several activities held in different Latin American countries during 2007. One of these activities was the course:

**RLB07-CP01:**

**International Training Course “Conservation and Society: Bio-cultural diversity and environmental ethics”**

**Venue:** University of Chile, Santiago, Chile and Senda Darwin Biological Station, Chiloé, Chile.

**Date:** March, 15-18, 2007.

**Local Coordinator:** Drs. **Ricardo Rozzi** (Universidad de Magallanes, Universidad of North Texas and IEB, Universidad de Chile) and **Juan J. Armesto** (CASEB-Depto. Ecología, P. Universidad Católica de Chile and IEB).

**Invited Lecturers:** Robert Frodeman (philosopher, UNT, USA), Steward Pickett (ecologist, IES, USA), Juan Armesto, Ricardo Rozzi, Alicia Bugallo (philosopher, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina), Rodrigo Vásquez (ecologist, Universidad de Chile, Chile), Jerry Franklin (forest ecologist, University of Washington, USA), Patricio Moreno (palinologist, Universidad de Chile, Chile), Michael Nelson (philosopher, University of Idaho, USA), Gene E. Likens (ecologist, IES, USA), Eugene Hargrove (philosopher, UNT, USA), Kurt Jax (ecologist, UFZ, Leipzig), Patricio Camus (ecologist, CASEB, Chile), Miguel Acevedo (geographer, UNT, USA), Luis Marone (ecologist, IADIZA, Argentina), and Roger Pielke, Jr. (philosopher, University Colorado, USA).

**General Objective:** To explore the interdisciplinary links between environmental ethics and bio-cultural conservation.

The course was offered to graduate and advanced undergraduate students from Chile and neighbouring Latin American countries, and was organized as three interrelated Modules. Module I took place at the University of Chile (Santiago) and Modules II and III, including fieldwork, took place in Senda Darwin Biological Station, Chiloé, Chile.

**Funds approved by RLB:** Funds sought from Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust were US\$ 3,187 for expenses of Latin American students.

**C. Cost of Graduate Courses - 2007**

A total of US\$ 39,192 was used to support graduate courses representing 30.1% of total funds (Table 4).

**VIII. SCIENTIFIC EVENTS (Annex IV)**

**A. Scientific Events with main support of the RLB**

The RLB intends to strengthen the institutional and human resources capacity in Latin

America to improve sustainable land management planning and implementation to achieve global environment benefits within the context of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, mainly in countries where the opportunities offered by the RLB have not been used adequately. To accomplish these objectives, the RLB designated US\$ 6,119 of a new grant from Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust, to organize the Regional Workshop “**Red List Training/Conservation Assessment and Management Planning (CAMP)**”

**Regional Workshop: “Red List Training/Conservation Assessment and Management Planning (CAMP)”**

**Venue:** INBIO Parque, Santo Domingo de Heredia, San José, Costa Rica

**Date:** September 17-20, 2007

**Coordinator:** This workshop was organized by RLB and the University of Costa Rica and chair by Dr. Sonia Lagos-Witte, Honduras, Costa Rica.

**Invited Lecturers:** **Dra. Danna J. Leaman**, Chair of the IUCN/SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group; **Dr. George Schatz**, Curator of the Botanical Garden of Missouri and coordinator of IUCN Red Lists in Africa Oriental and Caucasus; and **Dra. Sonia Lagos-Witte**, University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica.

**General objective:** To train of the participants in the application of the IUCN Red List categories of threat, extinction risk assessment, integrated planning of conservation efforts, and raising awareness of the need for sustainable development in view of the fulfillment of the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

**Participants:** Sixty three applications from 17 different countries were received, including 1 applicant from Argentina, 4 from Bolivia, 5 from Chile, 1 from Colombia, 8 from Costa Rica, 5 from Cuba, 8 from Ecuador, 4 from El Salvador, 1 from Guatemala, 3 from Honduras, 2 from México, 7 from Nicaragua, 3 from Panama, 1 from Paraguay, 7 from Peru, 1 from Dominican Republic, and 2 from Venezuela. Fifteen students from 6 countries were selected to be totally supported by the RLB.

**Funding:** Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust granted US\$ 6,119 to RLB to organize this workshop. Embassy of Honduras, Missouri Botanical Garden, IUCN/SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group and University of Costa Rica also contributed to support this important event.

Narrative report in [http://www.rlb-botanica.org/cursos\\_eventos.html](http://www.rlb-botanica.org/cursos_eventos.html)

Central American Students	
El Salvador	Jenny Menjivar
Guatemala	Julio Morales
Costa Rica	Rebeca Brenes, María Gei, Ingrid Rivera, Armando Estrada, Heidy Villalobos, Alonso Quesada
Honduras	Germán Sandoval, Frank Cardoza, Mireya Suazo
Nicaragua	Lenin Reyes, Rosa Reyes, Sasha Thomas
Panama	Dario Luque

## B. Events with partial support of the RLB in 2007

**B.1.** RLB offered several small partial supports up to US\$ 1,000 each one on a competitive basis for events to be held in Latin America.

### RLB07 - EC01

**Scientific Event:** II Symposium on Restoration Ecology  
**Venue:** Santa Clara, Cuba  
**Date:** April 15-18, 2007  
**Chair:** Dr. Jesús Matos

**Funds approved by RLB:** US\$ 315 to support Dra. María Luisa Martínez, Instituto de Ecología, A.C., México.

Dra. Martínez was an invited Plenary Speaker, delivering the talk “**La importancia ecológica, económica y social de las costas y su papel protector contra huracanes**”. RLB was recognized as a sponsor of the meeting.

### RLB07 - EC02

**Scientific Event:** The Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC)  
**Venue:** Morelia, Mexico  
**Date:** July 15-19, 2007  
**Chair:** Miguel Martínez-Ramos and Mauricio Quesada, Centro de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas, UNAM, Mexico.

**Funds approved by RLB:** US\$ 1,000 to partially support the attendance of five Brazilian students: **Claudia Bottcher** (Universidade Estadual de Campinas), **Flavia Fonseca**

(Universidade de Minas Gerais), **Graciliano Galdino** (Universidade Federal do Amapá), **Tony Vizcarra** (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa da Amazonia), and **Taise Farias** (Brazilian National Institute for Space and Research, INPE).

#### **RLB07 - EC03**

**Scientific Event:** III Reunión Binacional de Ecología (Argentina-Chile)  
**Venue:** La Serena, Chile  
**Date:** October 1-5, 2007  
**Chair:** Luis Contreras, President Sociedad de Ecología de Chile

**Funds approved by RLB:** US\$ 1,000 to partially support the travelling expenses of Dr. José Paruelo (Argentina).

Dr. Paruelo was an invited Plenary Speaker, delivering the talk “**Aplicaciones de la ecología al manejo de sistemas ganaderos extensivos**”. RLB was a sponsor of the III Reunión Binacional de Ecología (Argentina-Chile).

#### **RLB07 - EC04**

**Scientific Event:** VIII Encuentro Latinoamericano de Lichenólogos (GLAL)  
**Venue:** Lima, Peru  
**Date:** November 26-30, 2007  
**Chair:** Doraliza Tovar

**Funds approved by RLB:** US\$ 1,000 to partially support the travelling expenses of Dra. Cecilia Estrabou (Argentina) and Dr. Jorge Redon (Chile).

Dr. Estrabou delivered the Conference. “**Las teorías de la evolución aplicadas a los líquenes**” and Dr. Redón offered the Conference “**Líquenes Antárticos**”. RLB was recognized as a sponsor of the meeting.

#### **C. Cost of Scientific Events - 2007**

A total of US\$ 15,690 was used to support scientific events representing 12.1% of total funds (Table 4).

## IX. RLB EXPENSES

**Table 4**  
**RLB Expenses for 2007 and accumulated since 1988.**

CATEGORIES	2007		1988-2007	
	US\$	%	US\$	%
TRAINING	43,298.41	33.3	1,598,007	39.1
RESEARCH	6,059.95	4.7	410,709	10.0
INFRASTRUCTURE	0.00	0.0	99,496	2.4
GRADUATE COURSES	39,192.87	30.1	600,389	14.7
SCIENTIFIC EVENTS	9,434.84	7.2	323,512	7.9
PUBLICATIONS	0.00	0.0	1,050	0.0
COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REGIONAL COORDINATION	6,255.74	4.8	232,528	5.7
ADMINISTRATION (salaries, publicity, equipment, etc.)	25,961.48	19.1	823,373	20.1
<b>GRAND TOTAL (US\$)</b>	<b>130,203.29</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>4,089,064</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## X. ADVERTISEMENT OF 2007 OPPORTUNITIES (Annex V).

Advertisements of activities and opportunities available on a competitive basis for 2007 (and to start in 2008) were widely distributed through brochures sent by electronic mail on March and October 2007 to plant scientists and institutions dealing with plant sciences in Latin America and in other regions. Furthermore, same information was published in the "**RLB Boletín Informativo**" sent in March, June, September and December 2007.

As usual, the competitions were also published in the RLB web site as well as in others related sites within the region. The site of RLB (<http://www.rlb-botanica.org>) is a very effective way of promoting the programs of the RLB and providing other information of interest for the Latin American botanical community, as well as for publicizing major achievements of Latin American botanists.

We will continue expanding and improving the information services of the RLB to cope with the increased need to disseminate information. This bulletin covers RLB news, and serves for disseminating a great deal of information that arrives at the RLB headquarters from the Latin American botanical community at large.

## XI. OVERVIEW AND FUTURE

The Red Latinoamericana de Botánica program was developed in late 80's in response to the urgent need to promote regional cooperation for training local scientists in plant sciences in Latin America, identifying centers of excellence upon which to build networking. During these years, the RLB has well utilized already existing research groups and expertise within a network of centers of excellence to achieve the goals of capacity building, information dissemination and academic exchange, ensuring effective coordination of the regional and national network of institutions. The RLB is a unique initiative of the South-South academic cooperation for capacity building in the region. The RLB was awarded with the 2004 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement in recognition for its contribution to the advancement of botanical sciences in Latin America by the unprecedented program of courses, student exchanges, and collaborative research projects and especially by promoting regional pride, self-sufficiency and strong and healthier international relations among the countries of Latin America.

Since the launching of the RLB in 1988, the educational, politic, social, and economic scenario has substantially changed in Latin America. Currently there are many local and international agencies supporting capacity building in the region; there are new mechanisms of support and financing research and management of natural resources; the number of graduate programs has increased as well as the non-governmental organizations that offer support or develop research and capacity building, joining with the RLB in its objectives but also competing directly with RLB for financial resources.

However, it seems that the new opportunities offered in the region cannot completely satisfy the needs for capacity building of Latin American young people. At the same time, unequal advancement of plant sciences among countries within the region persists, increasing the differences between centers of academic excellence and countries without well-established research and training programs. A reason for this situation, among other aspects, is the even now inadequate number of well-capacitated human resources in Latin America. Subsequently, the RLB continues exploring support from different donors to accomplish its original objectives. One of the problems that still remain unfulfilled is to persuade these organizations that increasing financial resources for preparing good plant scientists in Latin America may be a shortcut for attaining practical results in conservation and sustainable development.

One the approaches explored by the RLB since a long time ago is the accomplishment of joint activities with local institutions representative of "non-center" countries, intended to strengthen the capacities of these countries. In that sense, the RLB proposal recently approved by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) from the Organization of American States (OAS) is the successful result of an institutional aspiration. The general purpose of this proposal is to carry out a number of courses, workshops and seminars in Chile, Dominican Republic, and Honduras to contribute to capacity building for plant conservation and sustainable use, to improve education and public awareness on plant conservation, networking, among other objectives.

Therefore, to face successfully its third decade, the RLB should establish an innovative strategic plan according to the new circumstances, in order to effectively accomplish its mission. If it is necessary, the RLB may well evaluate its targets, programs, and kind of supports, or even to revise its academic, administrative and financial structure, in order to continue being the most competent contributor to the development of plant sciences in Latin America. In this context, the present executive committee has proposed four new objectives

for the period 2007-2010:

1. Privilegiar la formación de recursos humanos para jóvenes provenientes de países no-centros.
2. Colaborar en consolidar nuevos centros de excelencia botánica en países no-centro.
3. Reforzar las acciones de la RLB para fortalecer la cooperación intra-regional.
4. Diversificar las fuentes de financiamiento de las actividades de la RLB.

## **XII. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Red Latinoamericana de Botánica is extremely grateful for the generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, USA; Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust, USA; Latin American Biological Sciences Network (RELAB); and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World – TWAS, and by various aids provided by institutions from the RLB training centers. We are indebted to the authorities of the Faculty of Sciences, University of Chile, Santiago, Dr. Raul Morales and Dr. Víctor Cifuentes, for their support. The RLB thanks Ms. María José Hidalgo, Mr. Sergio Padilla and Mr. Roberto Román for their technical support in Chile. An especial gratitude is for Susana Maldonado, former Executive Director of RLB for her 17 years of continued and successful work.

## **ANNEX I**

**Financial status of the Red  
Latinoamericana de Botánica – RLB**

**Major grants awarded to the Red Latinoamericana de Botánica  
between 1987 and 2007.**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Received from</b>	<b>US\$</b>
1987	Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, USA	17,000
1988-89	Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, USA	100,000
1988-89	Rockefeller Foundation, USA	300,000
1988-89	W. Alton Jones Foundation, USA	100,000
1988-91	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, USA	300,000
1990	Compton Foundation, USA	25,000
1990-91	W. Alton Jones Foundation, USA	100,000
1990-93	Agency for International Development, USA	67,000
1990-93	John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, USA	300,000
1991-92	Rockefeller Foundation, USA	350,000
1992-95	Rockefeller Foundation, USA	350,000
1993-96	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, USA	300,000
1994-96	John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, USA	255,000
1997-2000	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, USA	340,000
1999-2001	John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, USA	110,000
1999	William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, USA	10,000
2000-03	William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, USA	300,000
2002-05	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, USA	340,000
2004	<b>2004 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement</b>	100,000
2005	The Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust	30,000
2005	The Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust	23,190
2006-08	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, USA	260,000
2006	The Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust	30,000
2007	The Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust	30,000
2007	Organization of American States (OAS)	38,700
		<b>US\$ 4,175,890</b>

## **ANNEX II**

### **Colloquium**

**“Challenges of Plant Sciences in Conservation and  
Management of Natural Resources”**

**Colloquium**  
**“Challenges of Plant Sciences in Conservation and  
Management of Natural Resources”**

**Conveners:** Javier A. Simonetti and Gloria Montenegro

**Date:** May 10 - 11, 2007

**Venue:** Facultad de Agronomía e Ingeniería Forestal, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile.

**Rationale:** The remarkable biodiversity of Latin America is being lost at an unprecedented rate. Red Latinoamericana de Botánica aims to solve the paradoxical gap between biological riches of Latin América and the striking scarcity of professionals solidly trained to study and properly manage this biodiversity. However, there are a number of well-trained, internationally recognized research groups in plant sciences in Latin American universities and research institutes that are contributing significantly to alleviating the region's critical situation by carrying out scientific research of excellence and training students from Latin American countries. In this colloquium, it was evaluated the current state of different issues related with plant conservation and resources management in Latin America. The invited speakers were distinguished Latin American botanists who are involved in research on plant conservation and graduate training level in important Latin American institutions, all of them collaborative centers of the RLB.

**Participants:** **Ana Anton**, RLB Representative in Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina; **Gloria Montenegro**, RLB President; **Javier Simonetti**, RLB Regional Coordinator for Southern South American Cone; **Juan Núñez-Farfán**, RLB Representative Instituto de Ecología - UNAM, Mexico; **Lilian Zaidan**, RLB Representative Instituto de Botánica, Brazil and Executive Committee; **Lohengrin Cavieres**, RLB Representative Universidad de Concepción, Chile; **Luis Corcuera**, former RLB President, Advisory Committee, **Mary Kalin Arroyo**, RLB Representative in Universidad de Chile, Chile; **Neftalí Ochoa**, RLB Representative in CINESTAV-Irapuato, Mexico; **Sonia Dietrich**, former RLB President, Advisory Committee; **Sonia Lagos-Witte**, Regional Coordinator for Central America and the Caribbean; **Susana Maldonado**, Executive Director, **Victoria Sosa**, RLB Representative in Instituto de Ecología, A. C., Mexico, RLB Regional Coordinator for Mexico; and **Liliana Cardemil**, former member of the Scientific Committee, Secretary of the Corporación para el Desarrollo de las Ciencias Vegetales en América Latina.

**Funds assigned by Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust:** US\$ 5,242.

**Other funds spent:** US\$ 975 from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

**Program:**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 13:00 pm, Auditorium of the Facultad de Agronomía e Ingeniería Forestal, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

09:00 - 09:10

Introducción - Introduction

**Gloria Montenegro**, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

- 09:10 - 09:30 Recursos humanos para la conservación y manejo de los recursos naturales de América Latina - Human resources for conservation and management of natural resources in Latin America  
**Javier A. Simonetti & Gloria Montenegro**, Universidad de Chile & Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile
- 09:30 - 09:50 Flora vascular de Sudamérica austral - Vascular flora of southern South America  
**Ana Anton**, IMBIV, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina
- 09:50 - 10:10 Conservación de linajes de plantas con flores endémicos a México - Conservation of lineages of flowering plants endemic to Mexico  
**Victoria Sosa**, Instituto de Ecología A.C., Mexico
- 10:10 - 10:30 Interacciones positivas entre plantas en un ambiente extremo: consecuencias sobre la diversidad e implicancias sobre los efectos del cambio global - Positive interactions among plants in extreme environments: impacts on biodiversity and consequences on global changes effects.  
**Lohengrin Cavieres**, Universidad de Concepción, Chile
- 10:30 - 11:00 Break
- 11:00 - 11:20 Evaluación del estado de conservación de plantas medicinales en Centroamérica - Evaluation of the conservation status of medicinal plants in Central America  
**Sonia Lagos-Witte**, CIPRONA, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica
- 11:20 - 11:40 Estudios sobre los efectos de la fragmentación del hábitat en la selva de Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, México - Effects of habitat fragmentation in Los Tuxtlas forest, Veracruz, México  
**Juan Núñez-Farfán**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico
- 11:40 - 12:10 Biodiversidad vegetal y biotecnología: ¿polos opuestos o complementarios? - Plant biodiversity and biotechnology: ¿opposite or complementary matters?  
**Neftalí Ochoa**, Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados - IPN, Mexico
- 12:10 - 12:50 El futuro de la Red Latinoamericana de Botánica - Future of Red Latinoamericana de Botánica  
**Sonia Dietrich**, Instituto de Botânica de São Paulo, Brazil
- 12:50 - 13:00 Cierre - Final remarks  
**Gloria Montenegro**, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

The first announcement on the colloquium was published by April 16, 2007 (Annex 2). RLB enquired to potential participants to register by e-mail previous to the event. There were 113

registered people, mostly graduate students and academic staff from Chilean universities, research institutions and governmental organizations.

The objectives of the colloquium were largely accomplished. The subject was very appealing to the participants, who attended in an estimated number of 100 people. After each lecture, there was an interesting round of question and answers with the audience. One of the most significant results obtained of this colloquium was the suggestion of engage former RLB beneficiaries (scholarship holders, participants in graduate courses, among others) in the tasks that RLB has to carry out to accomplish its objectives. Abstracts are shown in Annex 3, and full lectures are included in Annex 4 (PowerPoint presentations). Further information about the colloquium can be found in <http://www.rlb-botanica.org/SEMINARIO-resumenes.pdf>.

In the same occasion, RLB paid homage to Dr. Sonia Machado de Campos Dietrich, one of the founders and former President of the RLB, for her entire career and extraordinary commitment with the development of plant sciences in Latin America.

A poster on RLB activities prepared by Susana Maldonado was exhibited in a key area of the venue of the colloquium.

Some pictures of the lecturers and audience attending the colloquium on Challenges of Plant Sciences in Conservation and Management of Natural Resources.



**Gloria Montenegro**



**Javier Simonetti**



**Ana Anton**



**Victoria Sosa**



**Lohengrin Cavieres**



**Sonia Lagos-Witte**



**Audience**



**Susana Maldonado**



**Juan Nuñez-Farfan**



**Neftalí Ochoa**



**Sonia Dietrich**



**Audience**

## **ANNEX III**

### **GRADUATE COURSES WITH RLB SUPPORT**

#### **“Plant Nomenclature and Botanical Latin”**

March 19-23, 2007, Jardín Botánico Nacional de Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic

#### **“Actualización en Biología de la Conservación”**

November 19-28, 2007, Reserva Nacional Río Clarillo, Santiago, Chile

#### **“Advanced phytoplankton course of harmful marine microalgae”**

November 19-30, 2007, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo,  
Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP), Argentina

#### **“Métodos en Paleoecología Cuaternaria”**

October 5-8, 2007. Universidad de la Serena, La Serena, Chile

#### **“Conservation and Society:**

#### **Bio-cultural diversity and environmental ethics”**

March 15-18, 2007, University of Chile, Santiago, Chile and Senda  
Darwin Biological Station, Chiloé, Chile

## **ANNEX IV**

### **SCIENTIFIC EVENTS WITH RLB SUPPORT**

#### **Regional Network**

#### **“Red List Training/Conservation Assessment and Management Planning (CAMP)”**

September 17-20, 2007, INBIO Parque, Santo Domingo de Heredia,  
San José, Costa Rica

#### **Symposium**

#### **“II Symposium on Restoration Ecology”**

April 15-18, 2007, Santa Clara, Cuba

#### **“The Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC)”**

July 15-19, 2007, Morelia, Mexico

#### **“III Reunión Binacional de Ecología Chile-Argentina”**

October 1-5, 2007, La Serena, Chile

#### **“VIII Encuentro Latinoamericano de Lichenólogos (GLAL)”**

November 26-30, 2007, Lima, Peru

## **ANNEX V**

**Red Latinoamericana de Botánica brochures and newsletters distributed throughout the region in 2007.**

**Web site of the Latin American Plant Sciences Network:  
<http://www.rlb-botanica.org>**

**Other notices on the RLB published in 2007**